

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-2-42-26

Issued at: Palmer, Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Effective Date: 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 1, 2026

Expiration Date: 10:00 p.m. Saturday, August 15, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag and possession limits for salmon, other than king salmon and coho salmon, 16 inches or greater in length to six fish in a portion of Fish Creek. This increase in bag and possession limit will be in effect during the youth only fishery which will occur on August 1 –2 (5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(H)) and extend through August 15. The sport fishery will open for all anglers, beginning on August 3 instead of August 8th. Sport fishing in Fish Creek is allowed seven days per week, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. Other Knik Arm waters, including the Little Susitna River, Eklutna Tailrace, and Jim, Wasilla, and Cottonwood Creeks are unaffected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(A) is superseded and 5 AAC 60.122(a)(5)(I) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 1 through 10:00 p.m. Saturday, August 15, 2026:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(a)(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) from its mouth, including all waters within a one-quarter mile radius of its confluence with Knik Arm at 61.286.13 N. lat., 149.46.14 W. long., upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, are open to sport fishing from June 15 – July 14, and August 3 – December 31 from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed;

(I) salmon, other than king salmon, 16 inches or greater in length, bag and possession limit is six fish, of which no more than two per day and two in possession may be coho salmon; a coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish,

By delegation to:

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner


Samantha Oslund,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for sockeye salmon in Fish Creek is 15,000-45,000 fish. Through July 27, the cumulative weir count is 64,755 sockeye salmon exceeding the upper end of SEG. Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon and open the sport fishery early. These increased limits for salmon will expire at the end of August 15 as sockeye salmon in Fish Creek conclude their run.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.